

Africa has been a top priority of mine since I proudly took office in 1993. After having served for many years on the House International Relations Committee, I have taken an interest in issues ranging from South Africa's post-apartheid development to the crises in Liberia and Sudan. I have consistently focused on the most pressing of Africa's problems, including HIV/AIDS, refugees and displaced persons, and the various civil and regional armed conflicts.

Furthermore, I have dealt with a wide range of issues related to Africa. For example, I launched a number of Africa assistance projects, including the United Nations "good donorship initiative," in an effort to focus on forgotten and neglected emergencies that get little attention. I am working to make sure that the same international community, which pledged \$13 billion to rebuild Iraq will show the same kind of commitment to help people caught up in 21 often forgotten crises and conflicts throughout Africa.

To accomplish this, Africa needs the assistance and cooperation of the United States, Africa needs this support today, and Africa will need this support tomorrow. In fact, no part of the world is in greater need of our help and none has greater potential to reward our efforts if we apply them in a prudent and judicious manner than Africa.

The instability in Sudan and the brutal genocide in Darfur must come to an end. As a member of the Congressional Sudan Caucus, I am committed to bring about peace in the region.

On March 12, 2009, I introduced a resolution that commends the International Criminal Court (ICC) for issuing an arrest warrant of President al-Bashir. Among other things, the resolution expresses the need for a comprehensive approach to ending genocide and human rights violations in Darfur. The resolution also calls for international cooperation to facilitate positive social, economic, and political developments in Darfur and the rest of the country. And, the resolution calls on the United States to engage in vigorous diplomacy, including requesting President Obama to immediately appoint a high-level envoy for the region.

In the past, I have co-sponsored legislation that calls on the League of Arab States and each Member State individually to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to expedite their efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur.

I have also co-sponsored legislation that calls on the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to condemn the atrocities taking place in Darfur and end military and economic assistance to the government of Sudan until it stops civilian attacks and engages in peace

negotiations.

I am currently in the process of drafting a resolution with the Congressional Sudan Caucus to welcome the future state of Southern Sudan, encourage Sudan and Southern Sudan to resolve post-referendum arrangements and the future of the Abyei region, and call for a peaceful transition of power.

Lastly, I introduced a resolution on February 23, 2010 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela, recognize the significance of his contribution to democracy and racial equality in South Africa, and honor his life-long dedication to building a more equitable and united world. Twenty years after Nelson Mandela's release and more than 15 years after he was elected President of South Africa, his wisdom, strength and work continue to inspire people around the world. I believe it is essential to recognize his legacy.

The relationship between Africa and the United States must be built on mutual cooperation and respect, with the United States not only involving itself in Africa in times of crisis, but also engaging on a long-term and sustainable basis in its development.